



APD NEWS

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8th St. Austin, Texas 78701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2008

Contact: Public Information Office, 974-5017

Auto Thieves Targeting Vehicles near Lady Bird Lake Trails

APD Auto Theft Detectives have been working on several cases where vehicles have been stolen from parking areas along or near the 1700 block of West Cesar Chavez Street.

The owners of the stolen vehicles are hiding their keys in what they believe to be a secure location. Police believe that the suspects targeting the victims are watching where car owners hide their keys.

Visitors to Lady Bird Lake Trails can help protect their vehicles from auto theft by taking precautions that will make their vehicle less of a target:

- ?? Take your keys – Nearly 20% of all stolen vehicles had the keys in them.
- ?? Lock Your Car – Approximately half of all stolen vehicles were left unlocked.
- ?? Park in well-lit areas – Over half of all vehicle theft occurs at night.
- ?? Never Leave Your Engine Running – It is against the law in Texas to leave your keys in the ignition or your vehicle engine running. If convicted, you can be fined up to \$200.
- ?? Install protection devices – Ignition kill switch, fuel kill switch, visible steering wheel lock, alarms and vehicle tracking.

The APD Auto Theft Interdiction Project programs are funded through the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority to reduce auto and burglary theft in the State of Texas. Texas ranks second in the Nation in Auto Thefts.

Remember “you hold the key” to auto theft, take your keys.

###

